

Mochizuki et al. is cited as having the components of the present invention. As stated with regards to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Mochizuki et al. does not recite the use of a copolymer of vinylacetate and silane.

Niemoller et al. and Nordeen et al. fail to mitigate the deficiencies of Mochizuki et al. with regards to the specific copolymer. There is no teaching in Niemoller et al. with or without Nordeen et al. which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a copolymer which is not taught in the combined references.

Removal of the rejection of claims 1, 4-5 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki et al. in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,214,458).

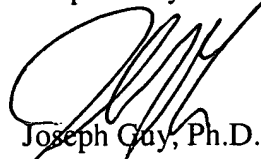
As previously discussed, Mochizuki et al. fails to teach the copolymer of vinylacetate and silane. Kobayashi et al. does not provide any additional teachings which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to a realization of the importance of this material.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C.103(a).

Conclusion

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claim 1, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended. All claims have been placed in condition for allowance by amendment and arguments. A notice of allowance for all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Guy', written over the printed name.

Joseph Guy, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 35,172

January 20, 2002